

Larry J. Hardebeck
3550 Wagon Wheel Way
Park City, UT 84098

January 9, 2006

Mr. Brian Amme
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

Dear Mr. Amme,

- 1 I am writing to oppose the BLM's plan to significantly increase herbicide use in 17 western states. I am especially concerned about the aerial applications you have planned, which will cause the chemicals to be spread far and wide. Just look at what happened on the BLM test plots in Idaho where they used OUST, a supposedly safe chemical manufactured by Du Pont. The safety studies on the chemicals you are proposing are not thorough enough to demonstrate their safety for all members of our society, and they certainly do not address the long-term repercussions that may occur down the road (say 20 years), for example, cancer of various types, autoimmune disease, etc.
- 2 In addition to concerns I have about breathing these herbicides as they float by in the air, I believe there is good science to demonstrate how these chemicals will eventually end up contaminating our water and soils, and ultimately, our food supply. Once they are in our soil and water, how will they be removed? Chlordane, which was banned in 1988, continues to contaminate our food and water and make some of our foods and fish unsafe to eat. Why? It lingers in the soil for 14 years after application and we do not know how to remove it. How many of the herbicides that the BLM is planning to use will linger this long, or longer?
- 3 I love the outdoors and love to take my children to special places I have come to love on BLM land in the west. If this proposal is implemented, I will be fearful for what can happen to my children and their immediate and long-term health. My son has a severely damaged immune system and he is likely to be affected by exposure to only small amounts of something as powerful as an herbicide. I am also worried about the food he eats. Your document does little to convince me that some of these herbicides will not drift over onto farms and ranges that grow the organic fruits and vegetables he eats, and raise the animals that provide the organic and natural meats that he eats. Or, it may end up in the water used to water the crops or the animals.
- 4 I urge you to reconsider this plan and reject the alternative you have selected. Instead, I urge you to pick Alternative C, which calls for no herbicide applications. Instead, please use safer alternatives. Thank you very much.

Larry J. Hardebeck